



STATE OF WASHINGTON

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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Problems that Delay Issuance of a Structural Pest Inspector License

Problem 1: Failure to obtain a UBI number from the Department of Licensing. The Structural Pest Inspector (SPI) Business License Application requires the UBI number before an SPI Company License is valid. All inspectors must work for a licensed SPI Company **BEFORE** the Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA) can issue them a SPI license.

To learn more about getting a business license, you or the company you work for can contact DOL at (360) 664-1400 or <http://www.dol.wa.gov/businesses.htm>.

Problem 2: Failure to understand the required financial coverage options. It is the responsibility of the SPI company to obtain this coverage. WSDA staff is available to answer questions and supply the necessary forms but they are not responsible for working with agents to secure coverage for you. Obtaining financial coverage is difficult, time-consuming and expensive. Prospective inspectors should be aware of this before making a final decision about pursuing this type of work. The financial coverage options and forms are detailed on the WSDA website at <http://agr.wa.gov/PestFert/LicensingEd/CaSpiInfo.htm#agent>.

Problem 3: Failure to obtain the required financial coverage in a timely manner. Many prospective licensees have met all the requirements of becoming a SPI but are then unable to secure coverage. **This is the Number 1 reason that SPI licenses are delayed!**

Problem 4: Failure of the agent to provide WSDA with proof of financial coverage on a prescribed form. Forms are available at <http://agr.wa.gov/PestFert/LicensingEd/CaSpiInfo.htm#agent>.

Problem 5: Failure to adequately prepare for the SPI exam. The study material for this exam includes, at the very least, a WSU manual and key and the WSDA Wood Destroying Organism Rules. Since there is a practical exam, lack of field experience or hands-on training can be detrimental to some. Lack of knowledge of wood destroying organisms, their characteristics and the damage they cause is the leading cause of wrong answers.

The study materials necessary to pass the Structural Pest Inspector exam are detailed in the *Guidance Document for Structural Pest Inspectors Testing Requirements for New Licensees* available from Pesticide Licensing at 877.301.4555 or on-line at <http://agr.wa.gov/PestFert/docs/StudyInfo.pdf>.

Problem 6: Failure to make a test reservation as soon as you know when you will be ready to test. Some exam sessions fill up quickly so if you delay, you might need to wait longer or travel farther. Making a reservation is as easy as calling Pesticide Licensing at 877.301.4555. If you can't make the testing session, be sure to call and cancel so another tester can attend.

Problem 7: Failure to complete the SPI Company Application or to notify WSDA when a new inspector is added to the company. Both can be done by completing the SPI Company License Application at <http://agr.wa.gov/PestFert/docs/4175-SPICompanyLicenseApp.pdf>. Since no fee is required for this license, the application can be faxed to WSDA at 360.902.2093.